

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
HERITAGE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

Animal Abstract

Element Code: AAABC05100

Data Sensitivity: No

CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE

NAME: *Pseudacris regilla* Hedges

COMMON NAME: Pacific tree frog, Pacific chorus frog, Pacific Hyla, Oregon wood frog, Pacific tree toad

SYNONYMS: *Hyla regilla* Baird and Girard, *Hyla scapularis*, *Hyla curta*, *Hyliola regilla*

FAMILY: Anura: Hylidae

AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION: *Pseudacris regilla* Hedges, Syst. Zool., 35: 11. 1986.
Hyla regilla Baird and Girard, Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Science of Philadelphia. 6: 174-177. 1852.

TYPE LOCALITY: Sacramento River, Oregon and Puget Sound.

TYPE SPECIMEN: No type specimens were designated (Jameson et al, 1966).

TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS: Species *regilla* is 1 of 14 species in the genus *Pseudacris* worldwide, all of which are found in North America, and 1 of 2 species found in Arizona. The other species of *Pseudacris* in Arizona is *P. triseriata* (Western Chorus Frog). Seven subspecies have been described, but are not widely recognized. Some research also indicated that the species may actually represent more than one species. The species was originally included in the genus *Hyla*, but Hedges (1986) moved it to the genus *Pseudacris* based on allozyme data. NatureServe (2005) also reports that it is believed by some, based on morphological and biochemical data, that the species does not belong in the genus *Hyla*, and that it should remain in the genus *Pseudacris* until the relationship is more clearly understood.

DESCRIPTION: A small frog with toe pads and a black or brown eye stripe. Their size ranges from 0.75 - 2 in (1.9-5 cm). Their coloration is highly variable with green and brown as the most common colors, but they may also be gray, tan, or black. Individuals may change the shade of their color from light to dark or vice-versa. The skin is generally smooth with a few tubercles present, but may be quite rough as well. A triangular Y or V shape is generally present between the eyes. The male has a dusky or gray, wrinkled throat, and a round vocal sac. This species has limited toe webbing on the hind feet (AmphibiaWeb, accessed 2005). (Wright and Wright 1949; Stebbins 1966, 1985; Bebler and King 1992).

Larvae: Tadpoles of the species are generally brown or olive, usually with black speckling. The eyes are on the margins of the head, and the tail fin has a high arch that starts mid-way down the back and ends in a round tip. The mouth is square with two rows of denticles on the top and three on the bottom. They will normally grow to a length of approximately 5 cm (1.97 in) total length (approx. 14 mm snout-vent-length) before metamorphosis (Hallock and McAllister 2005).

AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION: Somewhat smaller and more slender than the canyon treefrog (*Hyla arenicolor*). Eye stripe extends to the shoulder while the mountain treefrog (*H. wrightorum*) eye stripe extends past the shoulder. Can be distinguished from the other member of the genus in our range (*Pseudacris triseriata*) by its dark eye stripe.

ILLUSTRATIONS: Color drawing (Stebbins 1966: plate 13)
Color drawing (Stebbins 1985: plate 16)
Color photo (Behler and King 1979: plates 148, 170, 182)
Color photos (*In* <http://www.californiaherps.com/frogs/pages/p.regilla.html>)
Color photos (*In* <http://www.wildherps.com/species/P.regilla.html>)
Color photos (Terry Spivey *In* <http://www.forestryimages.org/browse/subthumb.cfm?sub=12691&start=1>)
Color photos (Tom Brennan *In* <http://www.reptilesandamphibians.com/Turtle-Amphibs-Subpages/h-p-regilla.html>)
Color photos (Trout *In* <http://www.frogwood.org/animals.html>)
Color photos (*In* http://bayscience.org/Animals/P/Pseudacris_regilla.asp)
Color photos (Dan Suzio *In* http://www.agpix.com/photographer/portfolio/A0089150_1_caption.html)

TOTAL RANGE: Southern British Columbia to tip of Baja California, east to eastern Nevada, extreme northwestern or west central Arizona, western Montana. It is also found on islands off the coast of California and Baja California, and has been introduced onto Revillagigedo island in Alaska as well as the Queen Charlotte Islands of British Columbia.

RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA: Mohave county along west central border of Arizona.

SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS

BIOLOGY: Largely nocturnal, but active also in the daytime (Stebbins 1951). They remain inactive at cold temperatures (NatureServe 2005). The call is a clear high-pitched, double syllable note, which is repeated about once per second. The call is that which is most commonly heard in movies (Somma 2005). The species is tolerant of brackish water and may even breed in it (Alaska Fact sheet and Zug pg 238). Young may disperse up to 237 meters away from their natal ponds (Duelman and Trueb pg. 265). The larvae are preyed upon by introduced mosquito fish (*Gambusia affinis*), aquatic insects, garter snakes, and bullfrogs. Mainly garter snakes, as well as many birds and mammals prey upon adults.

REPRODUCTION: Breeds November through July. Males congregate in large choruses and chorusing may last all day during the peak of the breeding season, but is limited to the dark of the nighttime hours during the remainder of the breeding season. Eggs masses of approximately 20-70 eggs are deposited in shallow water generally at depths above 4 inches, and are usually attached to plants, sticks, or other objects in the water. Eggs generally hatch in 2-3 weeks from June to late August. The larvae may take up to 2.5 months to metamorphose. The metamorphs

take less than one year to reach sexual maturity and will participate in the next year's breeding season (Duellman and Trueb 1986).

FOOD HABITS: Adults eat arthropods, especially beetles, flies, spiders, and ants. Tadpoles scrape periphyton off rocks, eat filamentous algae, and surface feed on epiphytic diatoms and pollen. They also bottom feed on benthic detritus.

HABITAT: Usually found on or near the ground among shrubs and grass, within 0.5 a mile of water. They are found in a wide range of habitats including, chaparral, forest, farmland, grassland, and desert oases.

ELEVATION: For the range, they can be found from Sea level to about 11,000 feet (3,355 m). In Arizona, found between 400 – 1,330 ft (122-405 m).

PLANT COMMUNITY:

POPULATION TRENDS: Unknown for Arizona.

SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS:	None
STATE STATUS:	None
OTHER STATUS:	None

MANAGEMENT FACTORS:

PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN: Arizona fishing license required to take any amphibian.

SUGGESTED PROJECTS: Distribution, habitat, population and life history studies.

LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP: BIA – Fort Mohave Reservation; BLM - Arizona Strip Field Office; FWS - Havasu National Wildlife Refuge; Private.

SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION

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MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

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